



從外來移民到美國公民



CPA Citizenship class teacher Melinda Huang (second from right) with her students in Chinatown.

華人前進會入籍班教師與學員們

The Rush to Citizenship

Loss of Social Benefits Motivates Many to Naturalize

IMMIGRATION

Immigrants Lobby Legislators for Support

On Feb. 27, approximately 80 members of the Chinese community joined 300 immigrants from other communities at the State House to urge their state legislators to protect immigrants' access to state public assistance. It was the first time many of them had ever been to the State House to meet their legislator. Chinese came from Chinatown, Allston-Brighton, Quincy, Malden, and Needham to participate in the lobbying day organized by the Massachusetts Immigrants Refugee Advocacy Coalition, the Chinatown Agenda Coalition, the Chinese Progressive Association, and many other community groups across the state.

The majority of Chinese participants were elderly who will lose their Supplemental Security Income (SSI) this summer, when the Social Security Administration implements the new federal welfare reform law. According to the Social Security Administration, there are 1,679 noncitizens from China receiving SSI in Massachusetts. The Chinese recipients make up 6.8% of the total number of noncitizens receiving SSI in the state. Out of 1,679, 1,381 are aged, 9 are blind, and 289 are disabled.

As the most vulnerable sectors of our population, they have no other means to support themselves other than SSI.

In an informal show of hands, half the participants indicated that they have already received one of three letters from the Social Security Administration notifying them that they will lose their benefits unless they show they have worked 40 quarters or 10 years in the US. In order to continue to receive SSI, noncitizen immigrants must prove they have met the minimum earning requirement of 40 quarters. For instance, in

POINT OF VIEW

1996, a person must have earned \$640 for one quarter. If a worker made \$1,800 during 1996, he or she would have two qualifying quarters for that year. Each year, a person can earn up to 4 quarters.

Participants met with their legislators or legislative aides including: Senator Stephen Lynch (Chinatown) 722-1150;

Representative DiMasi (Chinatown) 722-2255; Representative Kevin Honan (Allston-Brighton) 722-2040; Representative Lida Harkins (Needham) 722-2263; Representative Michael Bellotti (Quincy) 722-2210; and Senator

Michael Morrissey (Quincy) 722-1494.

Chinese participants shared the impact of welfare reform on their lives and urged their legislators to support the allocation of funds in the state budget and legislation to address the needs of the most needy in our communities. Chu Xie, a member of the Chinese Progressive Association, shared his and his wife's personal experiences as political refugees and disabled elderly. Both worked and paid taxes but did not work long enough to be eligible for assistance.

The five point program includes:

- * Support Governor Weld's proposal to expand funding for the state's Emergency Aid to Elders, Disabled and Children, which provides \$338 per month to replace federal cash assistance.

- * Oppose the residency requirements for aid to new immigrants in Governor Weld's proposal.

- * Allocate \$10 million to Senator Norton's Nutritional Assistance Act For Families, Elderly, and Disabled Act.

- * Support An Act to Protect Medical Assistance for Legal Immigrants, which will provide full Medicaid coverage for immigrants losing Medicaid under

federal welfare reform (sponsored by Representatives Antonio Cabral and David Cohen and Senator Mark Montigny).

- * Allocate \$2 million to Citizenship and English as a Second Language Programs so that those who are losing benefits may receive assistance with the naturalization process.

Overall, legislators and their aides responded positively to these requests. One legislator said that hearing the testimony and seeing the vulnerability of the population affected by the new federal welfare law was the most convincing argument for the state funded assistance programs.

However, the fight is not over. We need to continue to talk with our legislators and ask them for a commitment to these five points. Please call your legislators and let them know you want them to support these five points as the state develops its new budget and decides how it will handle the crisis created in Washington.

-Lihbin Shiao

Chinese Progressive Association

CALENDAR

Chinese Music Concert: March 29, 7:30 P.M., Paine Hall, Harvard University, performance by the Chinese Music Ensemble of the Greater Boston Chinese Cultural Association. Adults \$10; Students \$8. For info and tickets call Chien Liu (666-3484), Janet Kou (862-6356), or Tai-Chun Pan (369-6656).

MAAEA Scholarships: The Massachusetts Asian American Educators Association (MAAEA) is offering two \$500 scholarships to a graduating Asian Pacific American high school senior planning to enroll in college in the fall

and pursuing a career in the field of education. Deadline for application is April 14, 1997. To obtain an application or information, contact Jean Young at 484-4239.

Women's Business Initiative Information Session: March 22, 1 P.M., Oak Terrace Community Room, 888 Washington St., Chinatown. Come learn about a 12-week educational series on community economic development and starting your own business. For more information call Anna Yee at 423-2296. This class is organized by The Women's Institute for Housing and Economic Development and co-spon-

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INTERVIEW

Christina Chan's Activist Art

By Samantha Young

Sirens sound and lights flash overhead as Leann crawls from her hooch to the medic tent. She wonders why she let a recruiter convince her to enlist as an army nurse. Every day she records the terrors of the Vietnam war in her diary - the wounded men, screaming orphans, and hopelessness. As an Asian-American, Leann has an extra challenge: "the enemy is Asian, but I'm Asian at the same time."

Minutes later, actress Christina Chan transforms her character Leann into the enemy - a Vietnamese house servant. The transformations continue until, by the end of the play, Leann is 20 years older and a confident activist lobbying on behalf of Amerasian children and veterans.

Chan played the role of Leann in the Delvena Theatre Company's fall 1995 production of "A Piece of My Heart." It's the same activist spirit that Leann acquires by the end of the play that is an important part of the real life of Christina Chan, whose activism led to her career in acting.

Chan was born in Hong Kong in 1959 and came to the United States with her parents and older brother when she was 2 1/2 years old. They lived with her paternal grandmother in a South End apartment before moving into a place of their own on the same street. She was a rambunctious child, describing herself as a "tomboy dressed up as a little girl."

Chan says that as she got older and began thinking about careers, she never dreamed of becoming an actress. Although she was involved in one school play when she was 18, she laughs as she recalls the disastrous experience. "I totally forgot my lines and the actor who was playing opposite me was feeding them to me. He would say my lines, and I would just repeat them back to him."

After graduating from Boston Technical High School, Chan enrolled at Simmons College with plans to become an M.D. like her beloved family physician, Dr. Simon. "All the Chinese went to him...and he gave the best shots in the world." But after her encounters with college biology, she decided that she wanted to be a psychologist instead. For a while, she also wanted to be a philosopher.

When she graduated with a degree in psychology, she had no idea what she wanted to do. Eventually she found a job as a welfare-fraud investigator and remained there for 11 years.

When she first became an investigator, Chan says she enjoyed her job. She believed that testifying against violators in court helped preserve wel-

fare for those who really needed it. But after holding the job for a few years, she began to have doubts about the service she was providing to society. She was prosecuting people who also needed help, such as mothers whose new jobs did not provide needed medical care for their children. Although her feelings are not in synch with the current national trend, Chan firmly believes that the government should assist those in need. "I believe in the welfare system," she says. "This nation is wealthy enough to provide basic services for the less fortunate."

During this time, Chan became involved with community issues, and took a particular interest in the local struggle of Chinese garment workers. A factory shut-down had left many female factory workers unemployed and without medical care for their families, pensions, or benefits. These workers didn't know they had the right to receive compensation until they received help from community organizers, she says.

When Chan attended meetings with the garment workers, the Asian-American Resource Workshop (AARW) was across the hall rehearsing a play about the struggles of early Chinese immigrants. Chan took an interest in the work, which was called "Paper Angels," and became friends with many of the actors. Eventually "one of the actors in the play came up to me and asked...if I would be interested in playing one of the roles," she says. An actress had left and so Chan was offered the part four weeks before the show was to open. "I didn't know what I was getting into," she says.

Unlike her first acting experience, Chan this time was successful, merging her love of social activism with a newfound interest in acting. "I'm a community activist," she says. "That's why I got involved in the first place. Because I felt I could help my community, activate them, motivate them through my acting."

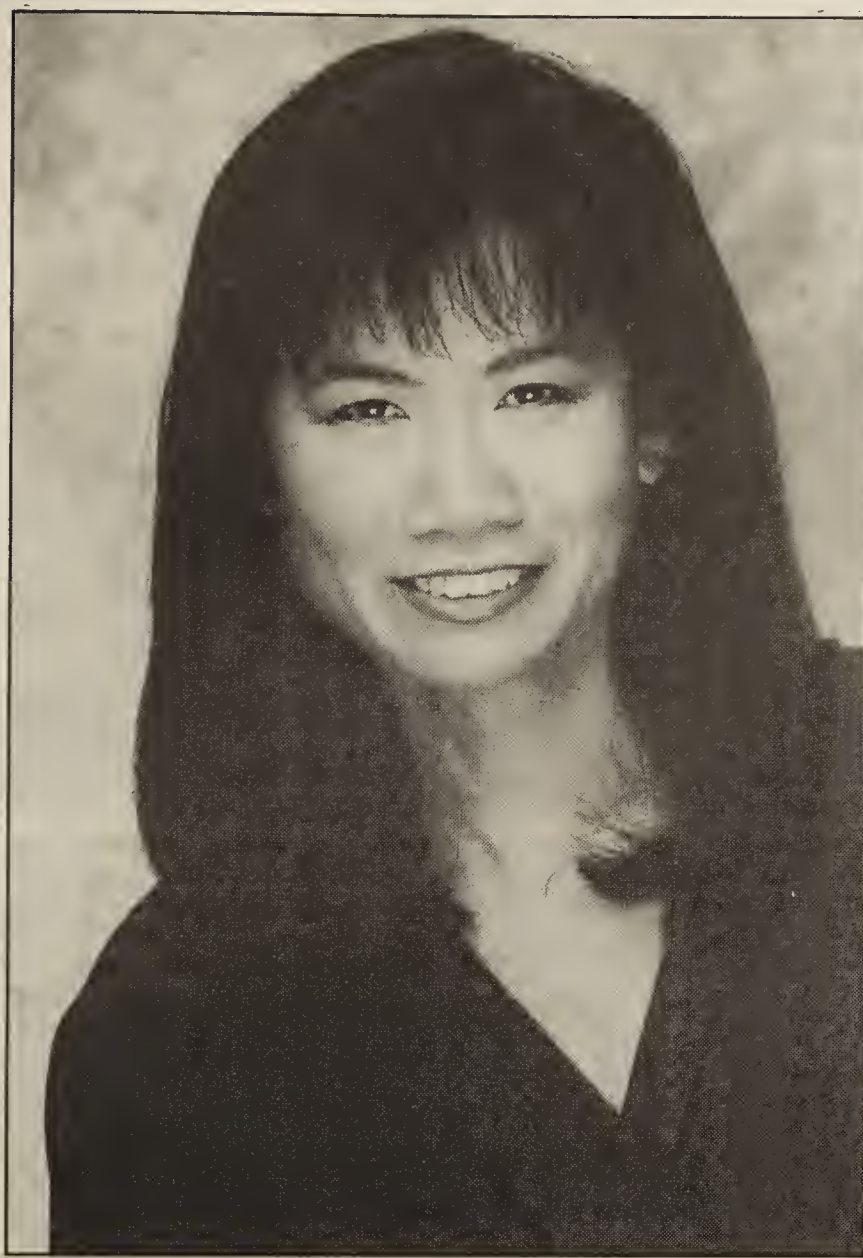
Although Chan kept her day job, she

continued acting at the community level for the next three to four years. She worked with the AARW in addition to playing roles like Lady Macbeth for the Roxbury Outreach Shakespeare Experience (ROSE), a troupe of minority actors that performed Shakespeare for inner city schools. In December, 1991, she was recruited to do a one-woman show for the American Legend Series, which had no Asian-American actresses at the time. After much research and finding a playwright to write the script, she began to perform "Unbinding Our Lives," a play about female Chinese immigrants from 1880 to 1920. (1920 was the year China banned the binding of feet.) It was during her one woman show that Chan realized she wanted professional theatrical training. She quit her day job and attended the Trinity Repertory School in Providence, Rhode Island, supporting herself by performing her one-woman show.

Luckily Chan has not been typecast to play stereotypical roles for Asian-American actresses. "I didn't play anyone who was innocent or sweet or quiet," she says. Unfortunately, Chan claims that this was "all because of my hair." As soon as she started to grow out her short, curly hair, she began to get cast as little girls and ingenues more frequently. But Christina continues to do her one-woman show and hopes to be able to do more of her own work in the future.

Chan's current endeavour is indeed her "own work." Not only will she be the sole performer playing a multitude of characters, but also the playwright. Chan has spent months researching, conducting interviews, and writing. "Behind Closed Doors," her original work about the controversial immigration debate of recent years, will premiere at the Cambridge Multicultural Arts Center April 24th through the 27th. (All shows start at 8 P.M. For more information call 617-577-1400.)

As for her future, Chan says she has many options and will "see what happens in the community." For now, she plans to continue acting in Boston. While many people have criticized her for not moving to New York or Los Angeles, arguing that she would have more opportunities to perform there, Chan says there are other factors to consider. "I don't feel that those places are where art is happening," she says. "I think art happens where your heart is, where your community is, and where your spirit is...My heart is here in Boston, at least with the Asian community."



Christina Chan

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At the Boston Museum of Fine Arts: "Story of the Last Chrysanthemums," March 22, 3 P.M.; "Sisters of Gion," March 28, 6 P.M.; "Osaka Elegy," March 29, 4:15 P.M.; "The Woman of Rumor," March 30, 12 noon. For info call 369-3300.

The next issue of Sampan will be published April 4, 1997. Press releases and advertisements which require typesetting or artwork are accepted up to Friday, March 28, 1997. Camera-ready ads are accepted up to Monday, March 31, 1997.

Please note: Calendar items are accepted up to Friday, March 28, 1997 for the April 4, 1997 edition.

COVER STORY

Many Asians Seek Citizenship

Text and Photos by Robert O'Malley

Her daughter guides her carefully through the motions. First she fills out the application form, then she sits before a portable screen to have her picture snapped. Now she must prepare to take the citizenship test. She can take it in her native Chinese because she is 75 and has lived in the US for 19 years, but she's still worried she won't remember the answers to the questions.

Although the elderly woman has been in the United States for almost two decades, she has only recently decided to become a US citizen. Like many other elderly Chinese immigrants, she is eager to become naturalized because she fears losing Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Medicaid following passage of last year's welfare reform legislation. For many noncitizen elderly, SSI is their sole income and Medicaid their only health insurance.

When she immigrated to the US from Burma in the 1970s, the woman worked for about nine years in area garment factories, though not long enough to accumulate the required 40 work quarters to be eligible for Social Security. Instead, she was able to collect SSI, a government program providing financial support for the poor, elderly, and disabled.

In recent months, many elderly Chinese have been scrambling to apply for citizenship and begin preparing to take the dreaded citizenship test. Although many are eligible to take the test in their native Chinese with the help of an interpreter (to be eligible, a 50-year-old legal resident must live here 20 years and a 55-year-old needs 15 years), others have been here for shorter periods and must take the test in a language they can't speak or read.

In addition to the elderly, many other Asian immigrants are also applying for citizenship in part because of the benefits associated with holding an American passport. Liu Suicun, a restaurant worker who has been attending a course at the Chinese Progressive Association (CPA) to prepare for the citizenship test, said he wants to become a citizen because he wants to travel more freely and wants some guarantee that when he is older he will have access to social benefits. For many elderly residents, however, the need is more immediate and worrisome, he says.

Legal Residents Receive

Letters Warning of SSI Loss

The cause of anxiety among legal residents is last year's welfare reform bill, which prohibits noncitizen legal residents from receiving SSI and food stamps. The bill also gives states the option of withholding Medicaid from legal residents, though Massachusetts officials say legal residents will continue to be able to receive it.

Since February 3, many noncitizen recipients of SSI have been receiving notices telling them if they are likely to retain or lose SSI. Noncitizens who are told they will probably lose it have 90 days to tell the Social Security Administration why they should remain eligible. After 90 days, recipients who do not fall into an exempt category will receive another notice informing them that their benefits will be cut off. Recipients who do not qualify will eventually stop receiving their SSI checks, with the earliest cutoff date set for August. Under the new welfare law, noncitizens who can continue to receive SSI are refugees or asylees (for five years only); veterans, and people who have worked 40-qualifying quarters or 10 years in the US. Spouses can pool their work quarters to accumulate the required 40 quarters.

Weld Offers Help

Although many people apply for SSI



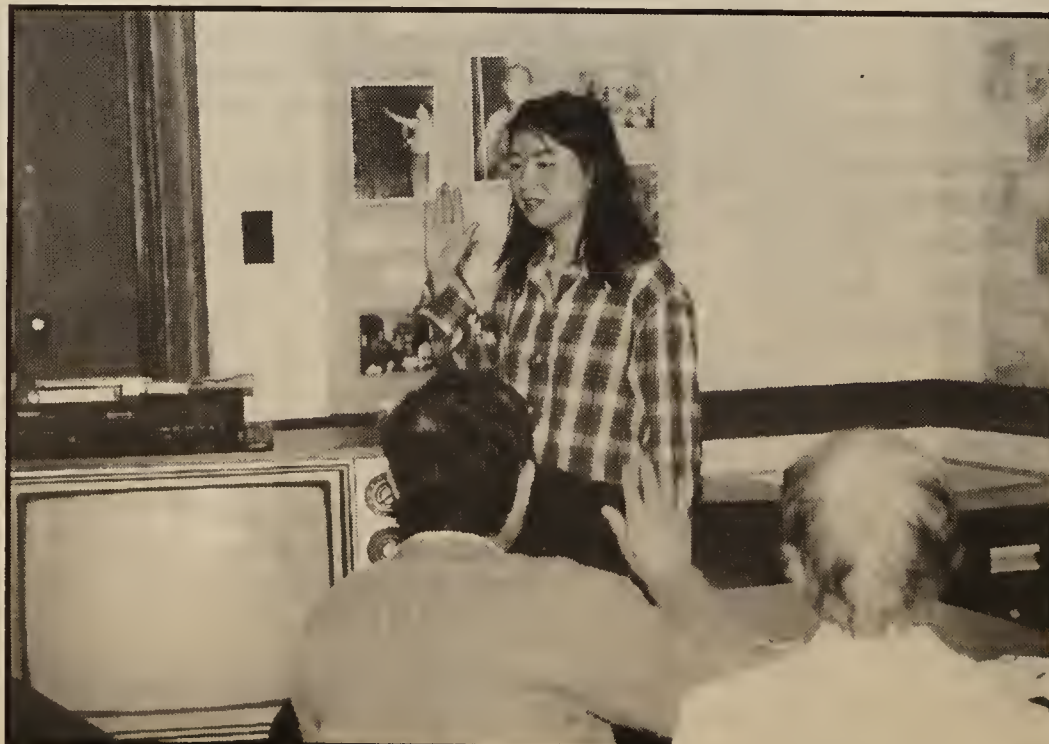
(Top) An applicant has her photo taken as part of the citizenship application process at AACA. (Bottom) Counselor Amy Wong takes fingerprints of citizenship applicant at AACA.

Loss of Benefits Motivates Many to Naturalize

and Medicaid together, Massachusetts noncitizens who lose SSI will not lose Medicaid, though they may be required to fill out new paperwork to continue receiving it. Gov. William Weld has vowed not to touch the Medicaid of legal immigrants and said that legal immigrants who lose SSI can apply for Emergency Aid to Elderly, Disabled and Children (EAEDC). State EAEDC payments would replace SSI, though the monthly stipend of \$338 would be less than current SSI payments. Funds to cover the program would have to be ap-

propriated by the legislature, said Lihbin Shiao of the Chinese Progressive Association. "Since the governor supports it we're hoping funds for EAEDC will expand," she said.

In addition to proposed state efforts to protect legal residents who will likely lose SSI, President Clinton reiterated in his State of the Union Address a pledge "to restore basic health and disability benefits when misfortune strikes immigrants who came to this country legally, who work hard, pay taxes and obey the law." In his most recent budget, the



Melinda Huang teaches a citizenship class at the Chinese Progressive Association.

president included \$13.7 billion to continue SSI and Medicaid benefits for more than 350,000 immigrants who became disabled after they came to the US. The budget also included funds to extend the eligibility for benefits of refugees and asylees from five to seven years and funds to delay the ban on food stamps to give legal residents time to naturalize.

The Rush to Citizenship

The changes imposed by the welfare reform law as well as an anti-immigrant climate nationwide have been major factors in the growing number of citizenship applicants, according to local advocates and a U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) official. The INS in Boston reports significant increases in citizenship applications both locally and nationwide.

Steven Farquharson, the INS's acting deputy district director in Boston, said the number of citizenship applicants has been rising since early 1996. "Over the last three months we've seen an even larger increase," he says.

While Farquharson believes that last year's increase in applications was in part a reaction to anti-immigrant sentiment and a belief that citizenship would better protect them from negative legislation in the future, he suggests that the most recent increase has been driven by fear of losing SSI and other benefits following passage of the welfare reform bill.

In January, 3,700 legal residents applied for citizenship in the Massachusetts/New Hampshire region, marking a 45 percent increase over the previous year's figure, according to Farquharson. And while the INS is striving to limit the duration of the citizenship process (from application to swearing-in) to six months, he says the high number of applications received in recent months has increased the period to nine or 10 months.

"We feel it will be a significant challenge for the foreseeable future," Farquharson said. He added that the initial increase in applications did not lead to an increase in staff, though new workers will be in place soon to handle the recent rush.

Lucilia Prates, citizenship coordinator for the Massachusetts Immigrant & Refugee Advocacy Coalition (MIRA), said an INS official recently told her that the local office had been receiving 2,500 citizenship application a week, compared to some 4,000 a month at an earlier period. Prates says she was told there is a 16-month waiting period from the time of application to the swearing-in ceremony and that there are many applicants currently waiting for an INS interview.

"INS is going to put extra individuals on naturalization," she said, "and they hope to decrease the timeline to approximately eight months." In an effort to protect citizenship applicants threatened with loss of SSI, U.S. Rep. Barney Frank (D-Mass.) has sponsored a bill to allow them to continue receiving SSI through the application process. The bill, however, may face legal obstacles, since some applicants will fail the citizenship test required for naturalization.

Fearing the Test

While many elderly and others are eager to become citizens now, many fear that their limited English skills will make it difficult for them to pass the required citizenship test. Immigrant advocates are lobbying local legislators for increased English as a second language funding for legal residents applying for citizenship.

To apply for citizenship, an immigrant must be at least 18 years of age and a resident of the US for five years (three years for persons whose spouse is

COVER STORY

a citizen.) The naturalization process begins with the filing of an application. Applicants have the choice of taking either a written test on history, civics, and language, followed by an interview in English, or an oral test on history and civics during the final interview.

In the written test, applicants must answer history and civics questions and write down English sentences read to them by a tester. If they pass the written test, their English will again be tested during their final interview. Last week, a number of citizenship class organizers said that applicants who had passed the written test were unable to pass the INS interview because their English level was considered too low. One advocate, however, said that INS officials have been especially hard on some interviewees. She suggested that the recent controversy surrounding written tests and charges that some may have been fraudulent has contributed to the change.

Who Becomes a Citizen?

Seated in his office in a North Quincy church, Peter Jae, director of the Chinese Culture Development and Promotion Council, says his first few citizenship classes included a broad range of immigrants who sought citizenship for practical reasons, such as ease of travel. But his most recent classes included elderly who fear losing their SSI.

While Jae believes it's useful for citizens to know English, he questions whether it's worthwhile to require the elderly to learn the language. Often they pass the test by memorizing key English words and sentences but can't really speak English. And while some people may be able to learn English but are too lazy to try, others are not educated in their own language and have difficulty learning a second one. He says that many elderly seeking to become citizens know little English.

Jae said a 92-year-old woman recently came to him seeking to become a citizen. Her family members were interested in having her apply because they feared she would lose SSI. He counseled the family to avoid subjecting her at such an age to the citizenship process. "Why give her this hard time?" he said. "Just give her a little money."

Influencing the rise in elderly citizenship applications are complex family relationships. While children sometimes follow their parents to the US, it's often the elderly parents who come to the US to reunite with their children. "I think the elderly come because of the family," Jae said, adding that "if you bring them here, you should support them."

Once in America, however, many elderly have difficulty finding jobs or are too old to work. Families, in turn, must



A citizenship class at the Chinese Progressive Association in Chinatown.

either support them financially or seek government assistance through programs such as SSI. While some families have enough money to support their elderly relatives, others may find it

exacerbated by those of their elderly parents. In the past, the availability of SSI took some financial pressure off families. But with the threatened loss of this support, the elderly and their



Citizenship class teacher Melinda Huang (fourth from left) with students outside the CPA in Chinatown.

difficult to cover their expenses.

Many elderly also want to come to the U.S. because they view it as a wealthy country. "I feel to come to the U.S. is their target," said Melody Tsang, a counselor at the AACA. "No matter good or bad...They're proud to come to this country even if it's not that good."

She believes many elderly find it difficult to adjust to this country and even more difficult to learn English. And while children also have difficulty adapting to life here, their problems are often

children are turning to naturalization as a solution.

Abuses in Testing

Fear of failing the citizenship test because of poor English skills has led some immigrants to overpriced citizenship services that provide tests and test preparation classes. In the past, such services have lured citizenship applicants by guaranteeing that applicants could pass the citizenship test.

State Attorney General Scott Harshbarger's office recently filed a

consent judgement in Suffolk Superior Court against National Citizenship and Immigration Services at 65 Harrison Avenue in Chinatown, which is no longer operating. The judgement was filed for alleged violations of the Massachusetts Consumer Protection Act. The Attorney General's office alleged that people had paid for citizenship services they never received and were sometimes given phony tests, according to Assistant Attorney General Chi Chi Wu.

The judgement prohibits Robert Pore, the owner of the service, from operating it or other citizenship or immigration-related services in Massachusetts. The firm must also repay customers who didn't receive the agreed-upon services. "In this particular case there were some pretty egregious practices going on," said Wu, who added that the attorney general's goal is to stop such abuses quickly and help people get their money back. Abuses in the testing process recently led INS to terminate the authority of Naturalization Assistance Services (NAS) - which was affiliated with the Harrison Avenue testing service - to give citizenship tests.

Recent controversy surrounding NAS has created some confusion among immigrants who may be unclear about which services are legitimate and trustworthy.

A consequence of the termination of NAS, one of six firms authorized by the INS to give citizenship tests, is that legitimate testing sites such as the Asian American Civic Association are no longer able to give tests. AACA, which has temporarily suspended its test-preparation classes, was affiliated with NAS but is now seeking to associate with a new testing service. The agency plans to resume testing and test-preparation courses in April.

Jae's Chinese Culture Development and Promotion Council had also been associated with NAS through Pore's service, which gave tests at his center in the basement of a local church. He said he will now try to affiliate with a service in East Boston and start another test preparation class this month.

The Chinese Progressive Association (CPA), which provides test preparation classes for immigrants, sends its clients to East Boston for the written test.

In addition to the major non-profit social service agencies who provide citizenship services in the Asian community, a number of Chinatown travel agencies have also been providing these services.

On the Cover: Teacher Melinda Huang with some of her citizenship class students at the Chinese Progressive Association.

Photo by Robert O'Malley

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CHINATOWN

Chinatown Development Issues Discussed at Meeting

Members of the Chinatown community had several opportunities last month to discuss the future use of land slated to become available in the Chinatown area following completion of the Central Artery project in 2004.

The land-use issue was discussed last month at a meeting sponsored by various Chinatown community organization at the Oak Terrace Community Room and at a Boston 2000 Chinatown/Leather District community forum at the South Cove Community Health Center on South Street.

Overseeing the creation of a plan to develop the Artery Project parcels is the Boston 2000 Working Group, a partnership consisting of representatives of various Boston communities and organizations and city and state agencies.

Cheng said the entities behind the creation of Boston 2000 include Move Massachusetts 2000, the Artery Business Committee, the city of Boston and the state. The group's goal is to develop a comprehensive plan to guide the development of land made available following the suppression of the Central Artery.

While it remains unclear precisely how much power the organization has in determining future policies regarding the parcels, Cheng notes that "they have the power to influence the decisions." He added that the eventual development of the parcels would also depend on available funding and the interest of developers.

Architect Lawrence Cheng, the designer of Oak Terrace in Chinatown and a member of the Boston 2000 Urban Design Task Force, discussed the various parcels that will become available for development following the completion of the Central Artery project. "It's not too early for us to start

thinking about what can be done on these parcels," said Cheng at the Oak Terrace meeting. Cheng noted that members of the Chinatown Community Plan fought to get the parcels included in the Chinatown Zoning District.

While the future uses of the parcels near Chinatown have yet to be determined, possible uses were outlined in a 1990 Boston 2000 plan. Boston 2000 is now visiting various communities to get feedback on the 1991 plan "to see if it makes sense," said Cheng.

Four parcels would become available near Chinatown following the depression of the Central Artery:

* Parcel 23, which is adjacent to the Chinatown Gate, would become available following the removal of the current artery southbound exit ramp. The 1991 plan recommends that this parcel be used as open space. Another proposal for the site also includes an area where restaurant vans could stop to pick up workers. This parcel is owned by the Massachusetts Highway Department, according to Cheng.

* Parcel 24 would be available along Hudson Street in Chinatown following the eastward movement of the roadway. The reconfigured highway would make available an 80-foot strip of land running from Kneeland Street to Tai Tung Village. The 1990 plan recommended that this parcel could be used for housing and open space.

* Parcel 25 would become available following the relocation of the artery tunnel near Kneeland Street. The plan recommends that the site be used for a mixed-use, 250-foot-high (office and commercial) development. The development of this site, which is the largest of the Chinatown parcels, would entail the removal of Pagoda Park - an issue that should be of concern to

Chinatown, said Cheng.

* Parcel 26A is near the steam plant on Kneeland Street and would be set aside for a mixed-use 300-foot-high development with a 500-car garage.

* There is also a parcel located near the former Wang Building known as the "infield." While members of the Chinatown community have discussed using the parcel for recreation, Cheng said the parcel has only one entrance. He suggested that safety concerns would need to be taken into consideration in proposing a recreational use for the site.

The newly created parcels near Chinatown will be owned by the Massachusetts Turnpike Authority or the Massachusetts Highway Department, according to Cheng.

Shirin Karanfiloglu, of the Massachusetts Turnpike Authority, said about 30 acres and 27 parcels running from North Station to Chinatown would become available following the depression of the Central Artery. She said 75 percent of this land would likely be set aside for open space, with the remaining 25 percent designated for residential and mixed-use developments. She said streets above ground would be reconnected following completion of the Central Artery.

In addition to the parcels associated with the construction of the Central Artery project, the Turnpike also has development opportunities associated with Turnpike air rights parcels near Chinatown. While the Turnpike Authority will accept proposals to develop these parcels, no one has yet expressed interest in those near

Chinatown, Karanfiloglu said. A developer recently proposed the construction of a residential project over the Turnpike in the South End.

Karanfiloglu said the future of air rights parcels would be decided in a public forum. "We are open to the public process," she said, adding that there would also be an environmental review process associated with any developments.

Stephanie Fan of the PEACH Corporation asked whether open space could be developed over the Turnpike near Chinatown. Karanfiloglu suggested that creating a deck and park there would likely be too expensive.

Noting that Turnpike projects in an earlier era had reduced the size of Chinatown, Michael Liu asked Karanfiloglu whether the Chinatown community would have a say in what eventually happens with the air rights parcels. She replied that all groups would have the opportunity to be involved in any development process.

In addition to the land development issues, participants in the Oak Terrace meeting also discussed efforts to revitalize Washington Street, which is Boston's "Main Street." The Mayor's Washington Street Task Force has been meeting to try to "jump start" the process, said Jessica Pineo, a senior planner for the Boston Redevelopment Authority. She said a request for proposals will likely go out soon for Haywood Place adjacent to Lafayette Place on Washington Street near Downtown Crossing.

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LEARNING

Searching for a Quality School Curriculum

By Anping Shen

School curriculum has been a favorite topic of American public educational discourse since the Soviet Union's Sputnik satellite shook American technological complacency in 1957. But until very recently, there seems to have been more talking than doing in the development of school curricula with high quality and standards. One apparent reason for this is that American educators may have had too many other needs and priorities that call for attention. In this increasingly diversified environment, it is certainly easy to lose focus on what education is all about.

And while talking about education is one thing, understanding it - both its missions and principles - can be quite a different matter. Most people tend to understand education on a personal level, because, first and foremost, it is a personal matter. For many minority and newly-arrived parents from non-Western cultures, American education has often been their first personal contact with the American mainstream culture, an experience that could be both welcoming and intriguing.

A Proper Perspective**On The Educational Phenomenon**

Years ago, when I was fresh in America and taking a graduate linguistics course, I became acquainted with a visiting scholar from a South American country. With a Ph.D. in linguistics, she always contributed to the class discussion with thoughtful and reflective comments on those rather "intimidating" linguistic topics. When we talked about our "new" American educational experience, she confided to me that she was rather surprised and disappointed to find out that some of her "educated" colleagues did not have some very basic knowledge commonly expected in her own country. She sounded even more critical when she talked about her daughter's schooling at a local public junior high school in an upscale suburban community. She complained that there was not much academic work and that the school curricula lacked focus. Moreover, she said, there were too many extra-curricular activities. She was worried that her daughter might lag behind her peers when they went back to their country after her one-year research work in the United States. With my son just starting kindergarten class in a public school here, which was basically "playing games" every day, I truly appreciated her concern for her daughter's "proper" education.

A year later I chanced to see this visiting scholar again. She told me that she had requested an extension of one more year for her studies in the United States. She explained that she made this decision because her daughter liked her American school very much. "My daughter even got her fine arts work publicly exhibited in the school. She has never had this experience before," this scholar told me with apparent excitement. "This experience is very good for her self-esteem, and it's also good for her learning motivation."

In a general sense, it is not uncommon for the public to have a paradoxical experience with the American educational experience. This kind of ambivalent feeling toward American schooling may be especially manifest among minority parents, partially because of their different cultural and educational values and also because of their lack of overall comprehension of American educational practices. (I shared some of my personal experience and feelings about this in previous articles of this series.)

However, without a proper perspective, comprehension of educational phenomenon could be paradoxical for even an education scholar. A few years ago, for a course assignment at an education school, I commented on a speech

written by an American professor teaching at Japanese universities. In commenting on whether Japanese schools are better than American schools, this professor gave both "yes" and "no" answers to the question. He agreed that Japanese schools are better because they seek higher standards, promote healthy competitive attitudes among students, have efficient and cost-effective administration, follow the rigorous curricula, and produce high-performance graduates. On the other hand, this same professor contended that the Japanese school system, particularly from the perspective of American educational values, is not a better model. He noted that the Japanese system is too centralized and undemocratic, its curricula are too regimented and rigid, and students are too stressed and controlled by the higher-education entrance-examination system. Comparing American education with its Japanese counterpart could be an insightful case study, but it is beyond the scope of this article. While one can be doubtful of the practical wisdom of this kind of comparison, this professor might have inadvertently made a good case that educational values and practices are culturally loaded, and that the meaningful evaluation of any educational system should be conducted from a proper perspective.

Understanding**American Schooling**

American public education has always been an integral part of the social and political decision-making process on local and state levels. (The federal government has become more involved in the educational policy process, though still not in a very significant way in most cases.) Originating in a unique environment which differed from many traditional societies, early American public schooling was directly related to the development of a civic society at the community level. Massachusetts was a pioneer in developing the modern American education system, the accomplishments of which included the founding of the first higher-education institution - Harvard University; passing the first public schooling legislation and opening the first modern secondary school (Boston Latin School) in the colonial American period. Horace Mann, who is often called the founding father of American public education, was the first Secretary of Education in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. He was convinced that the political and social order could be maintained if all citizens accepted a common set of political values. These values were to be taught in a common public school and would provide a political consensus or framework in which democracy would function.

If the early foundation of American public education was largely politically oriented, this foundation gained considerable philosophical underpinning from the progressive education movement during the early part of this century. It was John Dewey, the most influential American educational thinker, and other educational reformers who relentlessly advocated for child-centered educational thinking, based on his pragmatic philosophy, and fundamentally changed the American educational landscape. As I discussed in my previous article, this pragmatic child-centered learning approach has been the singular most significant hallmark of American educational practice, particularly in early childhood education.

"For American kids, going to school is a social event." This is the most insightful statement about American education I have learned, which did not come from my education professors but from my non-educator neighbor. During the past three decades American educational practices have been preoccupied with social and moral responsibilities, for individual students as well as for families and community. Massachusetts has remained an outstanding leader in this respect. Massachusetts was the first state in the nation during the 1970s to pass a transitional bilingual education law (Chapter 71A) and the most comprehensive special education law (Chapter 766) in the nation. (The Massachusetts Board of Education is currently in the process of reviewing the existing state education regulations provided by the relevant state laws.) It is common knowledge that public school administrators now often have to spend more time and resources dealing with legal matters than with curriculum issues.

From a legal point of view, there have not been many curriculum mandates for schools to worry about. While there has been much legislation regarding public education in this state, there are only two state public-school curriculum requirements - in physical education and history/civic education programs. (The Massachusetts State Board of Education has just revisited and loosened state legal requirements for physical education instruction.) This seems incredible to many parents who come from a culture where their governments controlled the school curriculum, sometimes down to every word of the school textbooks. In those countries, academic examination grades could literally decide students' future educational opportunities, particularly at higher education institutions. Like that scholar from a South American country, many Asian parents always worry that their kids will lag behind their peers, because in their own cultures that could mean they would be handicapped for life.

Current State**Educational Reform Efforts**

Against such a historical and social background, we can better appreciate the conceptual "paradigm shift" demonstrated in the enactment of the Massachusetts Education Reform Act of 1993, and nationally, the federal Goals 2000 legislation. For the first time the American public has been seriously talking about the standards of educational performance. The Massachusetts Education Reform Act is a comprehensive educational legislation backed by widespread public support at both local and state levels. One of the central elements of this historical legislation is the development of the Massachusetts Common Core of Learning. This document serves as the conceptual framework of specific and rigorous school curricula and provides the foundation for heightened standards for student performance, which will become a graduation requirement beginning with the Class of 1999.

Recently, the curriculum frameworks in the six subject areas - English language, mathematics, science and technology, arts, health, and world languages - have been approved by the State Board of Education and are ready for dissemination throughout the state. The remaining history/social studies curriculum framework is in its final revision and has yet to be approved. The following major reform efforts, among other things, are to develop a comprehensive system to assess the performance of individual students and schools according to the high standards embodied in those rigorous curriculum frameworks.

It is not an overstatement to compare the 1993 Education Reform Act to a call for an educational "revolution" (in other words, a paradigm shift) in this state. Like the process of any successful revolution, this Education Reform Act calls for not only restructuring the existing educational foundations, but, more importantly, developing new curriculum - and policy-making -

frameworks. In American culture, a real social-reform movement often means a democratic process of building consensus and sustaining commitment to change. This process may be time-consuming and often frustrating, but it is nonetheless indispensable to a successful educational reform movement.

Get Involved in Current**Educational Reforms**

It is argued that the underlying principles of American culture - public education is a critical part of it - are the freedom and growth of the individual, the quality of community life, and the need for a legal, social framework that ensures those qualities. These principles assume that if we create happy and caring individuals, the health and wealth of the community and nation will follow. This is a bottom-up cultural model. Asian culture, it can be equally argued, is based on the principle that the stability and order of the society as a whole (often in terms of a centralized system) provide the foundations of family and individual security and prosperity. In this top-down cultural model, education is utilized as a competitive means to train and select "human talent" as the leaders in all walks of life. This meritocratic model could develop an effective and rigorous educational system, though often at the expense of diversity and creativity.

With increasing communication, understanding, and economic competition worldwide, we are certainly experiencing and appreciating the beauty and challenges of both cultural (educational) models. For continued growth and prosperity under changing and increasingly diverse circumstances, all cultures have to re-examine their own underlying beliefs and assumptions. It is therefore critical that we should embrace and celebrate "conceptual integration" as well as "paradigm shift," particularly in the field of education. It has been commonly recognized that education should be the least radical but most influential means for sustained and healthy social and cultural changes.

As a popular Chinese saying goes, "challenges coexist with opportunities." This is true for the growth of a nation, a culture, a community, and an individual. As Asian educational experience and American experience represent two primary models of education experience, there is a wide range of learning approaches for concerned parents and educators to choose from. A good educational choice, however, is never easy. It depends on a combination of a lot of different factors. We should promote our common principles and appreciate our differences. An effective way to accomplish this goal, particularly in American culture, is to get involved in the educational decision-making process, to educate ourselves, to raise our voice, and, most of all, to work together for the common good - for our kids and for their kids.

The recent significant participation of the Asian community in the public hearing on the proposed revision of the racial quota system for admission to Boston public examination schools is a very encouraging event. Working together for educational improvement is the spirit of the 1993 Massachusetts Education Reform Act. More fundamentally, this spirit is - and should be - the essence of the public policy-making process in a democratic society.

Working together, we, as concerned parents, as well as school professionals and educational policy makers, should strive for a challenging school curriculum in Massachusetts. Working together, we should make sure that going to school is not only a social event, but also a critical intellectual and academic event.

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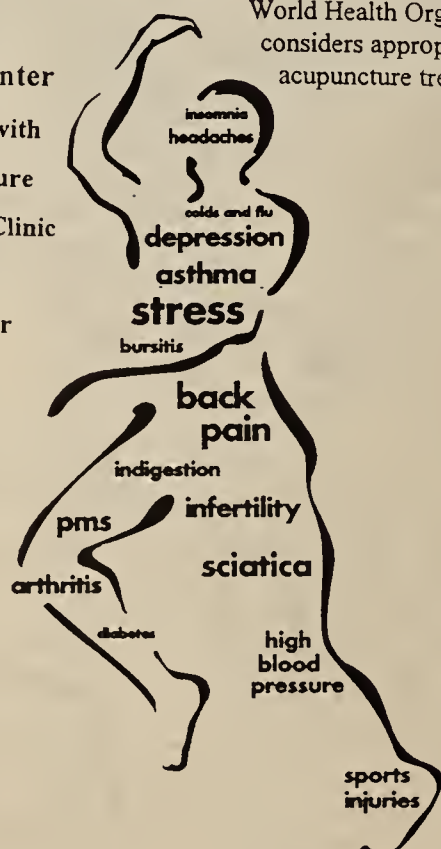


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位於牛頓市大波士頓華人文化協會華人中心樓內的僑二圖書館已發出撤消通知，目前已停止借書並為持借書証者辦理退証手續，四月

份起與華埠僑教中心圖書館合併管理。僑二館借書証可在僑教中心通用。

僑二圖書館是僑教中心四年前在西郊設立，現在的裁撤使許多已習慣前去借書的讀者頗感意外。僑教中心主任黃海龍表示，此決定是為了便於集中力量統一管理好圖書館，並支援其他地區建立新的僑教中心。

前進會春季聚會

華人前進會工人互助中心於三月二十二日(星期六)下午一時舉行一九九七年春季聚會，討論本年度工人互助中心開展計劃情況，並選舉代表。請自備食物分享，查詢請電：357-4399。

如何開辦家庭托兒講座

座落於柯士頓區的波士頓西區佈道教會將於三月二十二日與華埠昆士社區學校民衆委員會合辦一個名為「如何開辦家庭托兒」的講座。邀請該會協調員林仲瓊女士(Selina Chan)主講。免費教授如何領取家庭托兒牌照，解釋家庭托兒的好處，如何開辦家庭托兒及免費提供領到牌照後的訓練課程。

歡迎有興趣在自己家中開辦家庭托兒者參加，亦歡迎有興趣了解家庭托兒好處者參加。費用全免。時間是三月二十二日(星期六)下午二時至四時，在西區佈道教會舉行，地址是：41 Quint Avenue, Allston MA 02134。查詢電話：(617) 635-5270 陳太，或(617) 254-4039向教會查詢。

免費醫療補助講座

政府社會福利制度的改革，使不少人可能受影響或失去現有福利，華人醫務中心了解各界人士的擔心，安排州醫療補助局及地區機構代表講解現行福利改革及提供麻州其他醫療補助、緊急援助金、公民入籍申請等資料。

日期：一九九七年三月三十一日(星期一)下午一時正。地點：華人醫務中心家庭健康生活中心，波士頓南街一四五號(145 South Street)一樓。報名電話：(617) 482-7555，社會服務部。

華醫免費婦科檢查

婦女罹患乳癌的情況，須通過婦科檢查才得以察覺，並可及早加以醫治。

華人醫務中心的社區健康教育婦女保健計劃提供四十歲以上、沒有醫療保險的婦女能夠獲得每年一次的免費婦科及乳房X光檢查。

諮詢或預約診察時間，請電健康教育 521-6716向麥姑娘查詢。

《教育投資》

學生海報畫比賽

波士頓銀行將舉辦「教育投資」海報畫比賽，邀請紐英裔地區從幼稚園到十二年級的學生參加，參賽者需是加入「教育投資」計劃(Investment in Education)的公立、私立或地區學校的學生，由學校統一收件交給主辦單位。

教育投資計劃是一項由銀行與學校合作，幫助學校賺得教學設備的計劃，凡參與學校之學生及家長、親友、鄰居或有關商戶，只需到任何波士頓銀行(Bank of Boston)、灣州銀行(BayBank)或醫院信用行(Hospital Trust)分行填寫獎金禮券或與波士頓銀行有業務關係，都可為該校賺得「點數」，以獲得電腦、電視、錄像機、百科全書、體育器材等教學用品。甚至不是這些銀行客戶者也可前去填寫有參與學校標記的禮券，如果每天只要有一人填寫該校禮券，只需八個星期該校就可獲得一台錄放像機。過去兩年中，波士頓銀行已為參與教育投資計劃的紐英裔地區學校提供了價值二百五十萬元的教具。

此次海報畫的參賽作品題目是「教育是本」(Education is Essential)，必須有一部份以電腦繪制，參賽組別分為幼至三年級、四至六年級、七至九年級、十至十二年級四組，獲勝者將受表彰，其學校並可贏得五千個學校投資點數，以換取教學器材。參賽作品應由各學校統一收寄，截止日期是一九九七年三月二十八日(以郵戳為準)。索取比賽規則可電1-800-477-KIDS。參賽表格可通過銀行電腦網絡印取：Bank of Boston: <http://www.bkb.com> 或 BayBank: <http://www.baybank.com>。

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神州劇社上演新劇

《美國夢》

【波士頓訊】神州劇社本年度計劃公演四個話劇，主要的一齣是五月九日到十一日的《美國夢》英語話劇。劇本是朱蓉繼《紫禁城內》後的另一創作。內容描述這一代來美的華人青年如何以不同的方法追尋各自的理想或夢想。演員已從衆多報名應徵者中選出。

二月間神州劇社應麻省理工學院國際科技交流計劃的邀請重演了《紫禁城內》，因部份演員更變，全劇重新排練。

朱蓉對神州劇社定的宗旨是演出以中國歷史、文化為題材的英文劇，富教育於戲劇，增加美國觀眾對中國人、中國文化的認識，修正美國影劇小說塑造的、在人內心中生了根的華人形象。所以在選擇劇本時非常嚴謹。《美國夢》是該劇社首次採用以此地為背景的劇本。相信它更能達到「正式」的目的。華人觀眾看此劇時必能引起若干共鳴。

中國音樂會

大波士頓地區中華文化協會國樂團主辦的一場大型中國音樂會訂於一九九七年三月二十九日星期六晚上七時半在哈佛大學Paine Hall舉行，文化協會合唱團及哈佛大學中國同學會協辦。國樂團指揮許雅民曾任教於東海大學，現在波士頓大學博士班主修作曲，其創作曲多次獲獎。此次音樂會邀請到三位專業演奏家：著名琵琶演奏家吳蠻，一九八九年獲中國第一屆樂器演奏比賽琵琶第一名，先後與世界主要現代樂團合作，將演奏兩首傳統民間樂曲《夕陽蕭鼓》和《陽春白雪》；胡琴演奏家趙治民為一九八一年首屆大連之春器樂比賽二胡一等獎，現為紐約中國民樂團弦樂組首席，將演奏劉明源作曲的中胡曲《草原上》及板胡獨奏河南民間樂曲《大起板》；琴演奏家楊信宜，畢業於國立藝術專科學校國樂和香港演藝學院中樂系，為梁在平、項斯華、王海燕等名家的得意門生，將演奏古琴獨奏劇「今虞琴刊」傳譜《憶故人》和古箏獨奏徐曉林作曲

華人醫務中心

為滿足新移民來美生活需要，華人醫務中心將恢復舉辦新移民講座及日常簡要初級英文班。有意學習語言及文化者，請於以下日期前往華人醫務中心家庭健康生活中心報名。

報名時間：每月最後三日。報名地點：南街一四五號(445 South Street)一樓華人醫務中心家庭健康生

波士頓龍舟節徵招賽隊

一年一度的波士頓龍舟節今年已是第十六屆，將於一九九七年六月八日(星期日)在查里斯河近哈佛大學處舉行，除龍舟競賽之外，還有亞洲歌舞、工藝、書畫、武術、烹飪等活動。

目前龍舟節正招集參賽隊伍，每舟一隊共二十人，十八名槳手，一名鼓手、一名舵手，還需至少二名替補隊員，無需經驗，但需集體練習幾次。隊員必須年滿十五歲，能夠游泳一百米，每隊需自備統一恤衫。練習將從五月份開始。

每支參賽的隊伍需交報名費三百元(不退還)，可於首次練習時交費。報名截止日期是一九九七年五月十五日，分高中組和公開組，詳情可洽 Peter Murray (617) 426-5500 轉 778 分機，或電子信箱：dragonboat@icm.org。

《黔中賦》。另外此次音樂會將包括國樂合奏：《黃土地》、陝北民歌改編，《蘇堤小景》、江南絲竹，《山丹丹開花紅艷艷》、陝北民歌改編，《鄉音寄懷》、李煥之作曲；郭永怡的鋼琴獨奏：《映山紅》、桂習禮編曲；劉健笛子獨奏，小樂隊伴奏：《三五七》、趙松亭作曲；潘台春巴烏獨奏，小樂隊伴奏：《魚歌》、嚴鐵明作曲；文化協會合唱團合唱由陳綺麗指揮，楊世煌伴奏將合唱：《天山明月》、新疆民謠改編，《回憶》、呂佩琳作曲。此次演出的特色之一是節目中將使用一些少見的中國樂器如管子、埙及雲南少數民族樂器巴烏等，不僅可欣賞優美的音樂，也是個多了解中國樂器的好機會。欲知詳情及購票請電劉健(617) 666-3484，宋修勤(617) 862-6356，或潘台春(508) 369-6656。票價：成人十元、學生八元。

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昆士醫院與波士頓慈濟基金會將於四月十二日(星期六)舉辦「捐贈骨髓驗血活動及多項負責健康檢查」。為了使各界人士對「骨髓移植」有進一步的認識，將於四月五日(星期六)下午二時至四時假波士頓華僑佛教中心(65 Harrison Avenue 六樓)舉行說明會，並有茶點招待。歡迎各界人士踴躍出席，支持這項擁有真摯愛心的活動。



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支持移民福利

大約有八十位華裔老人及支持者，在二月二十七日(星期四)與其他四百多名來自不同社區的移民，聚集在省府的GARDENER禮堂，游說省立法議員在財政上支持將要失去聯邦福利的移民，以便暫時渡過困境。這次游說活動是由麻省移民難民鼓吹聯盟、華埠社區聯盟、亞太裔議程聯盟、華人前進會及其他團體組織，參加者來自不同的區域，如華埠、奧斯頓/布萊頓、昆士市、摩頓、NEEDHAM等地方。對很多人來說，這是首次前往省府面見政府官員，但為了保護自己的切身利益，存在的恐懼心理也一掃而光。

大部份參加游說者均是將要在今年夏天失去聯邦政府福利的老人家，要領取福利金的麻省合法移民老人有一千六百七十九個，佔全省領取福利人數的百分之六點八；其中有一千三百八十一人年紀已高，有九個失明、二百八十九個殘疾。這部份人是最軟弱無援的，他們除了獲得社會福利以維持生計外，沒有其他別的生存途徑。在一個非正式提問中，知道有很多人已收到超過一至三封從聯邦社安局寄來的信，通知非美籍移民必須在特定日期內出示證明，證明他們在美國內曾工作滿四十個季度(或十年)或入籍成為公民，否則現在所接受的福利將被終止。工作季度的計算方法是，若你在一九九六年工作賺得\$640，即等於一個季度，若要取得四個季度，一九九六年一定要賺夠\$2,560才可以。

與會者在大禮堂開完會後，即按其居住的地區，分成組別前往其省代表處進行游說工作。前往游說的區代表對象包括：華埠：Stephen Lynch參議員及Salvatore DiMasi參議員；Allston區：Kevin Honan參議員；Needham區：Linda Harkins參議員；Quincy區：Michael Bellotte參議員及Michael Morrissey參議員。前往游說的人，都將他們的遭遇及處境告訴立法議員，希望他們在財政預算上，將失去的聯邦福利部份計算在州財政預算中。

華人前進會會員謝初初在大會上講出他和妻子來到美國後的遭遇，他來美國已十幾年，當時是以移民身份進入，來到後在餐館做了五年工，因一次大火意外，被濃煙燻壞了，以後就不能再如常工作，被逼像聯邦福利伸手求助。而他的妻子則在到來後不久患上眼疾，經過幾次眼部手術也不能治愈，從那時開始她就處於半失明狀態，不能完全照顧自己，因此，照顧她日常生活的工作就落在謝先生的身上了。由於他及妻子都不能工作，生活都要依靠聯邦福利金過活，現在若失去福利金，則日後生活頓成困境。

當日游說政客的目的及要求如下：(一)支持省長韋德的建議，計劃增加對老人、殘疾及小孩的緊急援助，即每月提供\$38去填補失去的聯邦現金資助。(二)反對阻止向別州移民提供州援助。(三)撥款一千三百二十萬元向將要失去糧食券的合法居民提供食物援助。(四)支持一項為合法居民提供的保健醫療援助提案，這提案是為在福利改革後，將要失去聯邦醫療援助的人士而設。(五)撥款二百萬元給入籍班及英文班，以便更有效地為將要失去福利的人士，提供入籍的機會。

社區論壇

(華人前進會)

華人聯合起來抗議新社會福利法案

讀者謝志揚投書本報，建議星島日報、華人前進會、華美福利會等社團發動簽名，抗議政府新的社會福利法案。提出六條如下：

第一：突然剝奪千千萬萬合法移民的居民，特別是殘老者已享有多年的補助，使之陷入生存上的困境，是最不人道的！騙取福利補助的個別情況不應連累合法移民享有原有的福利權利。

第二：以入籍為唯一繼續享有原有的福利補助條件也是不對的。入籍在民主國家應採取自願方式。現在對千千萬萬的老年殘疾和失去工作能力的合法居民，以失去福利來迫使他们入籍，顯然是強迫的，有違自願精神。

第三：居民入籍問題，並非其本人不願入籍，許多人因遭各種各樣的客觀困難，而被拒於門外，不得而入。但政府當局似乎官僚主義，不知民憤，而把他們左右為難，迫使他们走投無路，又連累了其子女無法安心工作，甚至將會引起社會動亂不安。

第四：美國永久居民不應與美國公民在原有享受社會福利權利上有所區別。這是美國和平、民主、人權與自由的世界觀，也是民主美國的精神。今天的新法案是有違這種精神的。

第五：由「法案」引起有條件入籍，而且自願入籍的人，有些人是因為客觀上的種種原因，如移民局入籍部門工作繁多或有誤失之處，未能及時解決申請人的入籍問題，而申請人亦因語言文化關係，不知也不懂得向何方追問，以致停止福利補助的繼續供給的通知日期已到。這常常是那些年老最爲擔心的問題。目前據知還未有一個專門爲他們負責解決這一困難的義務服務機構，才使這些人被當作皮球一樣地踢來踢去。爲了解決這個緊急問題，請求政府迅速委託民間一個合法而廉潔熱心公益勇於負責的人士及機構擔當此任，並廣爲宣傳，能給這些老人前往求救。

第六：據知當前有這樣的事發生：由於某些民間入籍服務機構不良分子乘機作弊，使政府停止某些機構入籍服務資格，但一些申請入籍者已花長時間排隊才進行過諸如考筆試、打指模等的過程。卻無辜被牽連，政府因不良分子的作弊，連同他們已辦理過按規定的手續，也重新推翻不算，並又另立新的規定，遲遲未告知其入籍申請者本人，嚴重耽誤時日及影響是否繼續發給福利的問題。這問題亦請政府及時避免和解決。

讀者來信

出版預告

下期《舢舨》將於四月四日出版，需翻譯植字的廣告及社區活動欄消息請於三月二十八日前交本報處理，多謝合作。又本刊歡迎各界投稿、來信、及提供有關亞裔社區的消息。

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由麻省偉諾大學主辦，紐英崙醫療中心、昆市小學及昆市學校社區中心協辦之「中國城教職員工大會--我們將共同撫育兒童」課程，將於本年四月五日(星期六)假波士頓愛群中心舉行。此項課程之目的乃提供更多及更有效之教育課程範圍引與教職人仕及幼兒輔導中心之職員，課程包括兒童之成長過程，身心健康與安全等。整個課程將以廣東話或國語進行，登記費用三元，包括午餐供應。詳情及單張可向昆市小學索取，或電636-6079留下口訊給湯女士(Agatha Tong)。

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紐醫直升機場引起社區關注

【本報訊】由於中央公路擴建原因，紐英崙醫療中心現位於華埠大同村附近的直升機場起降場需另遷地址，目前打算在紐醫新樓屋頂建新的直升機場。社區對該機場遷入華埠內之後噪音、安全等因素多有疑慮。二月十四日和三月十七日，分別有救護直升機飛臨華埠紐醫大廈上空，以便讓社區人士評審聲浪程度。

三月十七日晚，華埠社區會議邀請社區人士在紐醫禮堂參加會議，請負責救護直升機的「醫療飛行公司」負責人講解。據該公司與紐醫人士解釋：選擇起降場的首要因素是安全第一，而華埠附近的地面區域都不符合直升機起降的安全要求，紐醫樓頂成了唯一選擇。據稱直升機在高樓頂上起降比在地面更安靜、噪音小、起降時間短、向地面擴散的污染也小，該公司服務十二

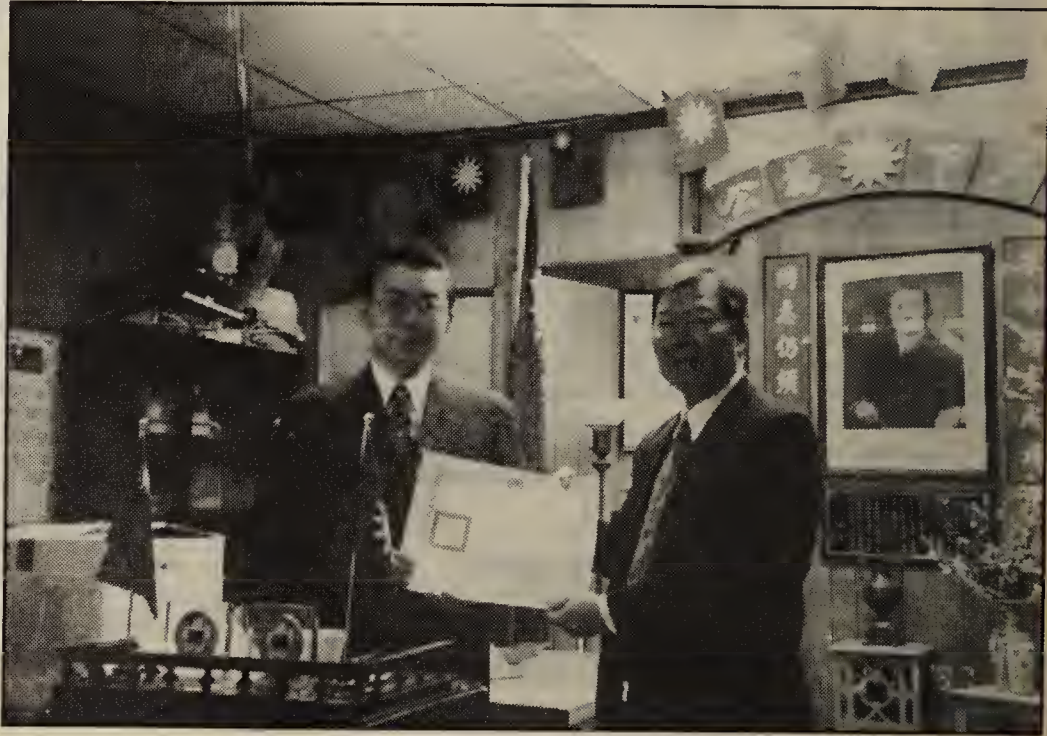
國民黨波士頓分部舉行 國父孫中山逝世七十二週年紀念會

【波士頓訊】中國國民黨波士頓分部於三月十二日上午十時三十分舉行國父孫中山逝世七十二週年紀念大會，由常務委員朱自律主持。他致詞：「國父遺囑廢除不平等條約，本黨經歷八年抗日戰爭，已獲得了全部不平等條約的廢除，但中華民國能永遠屹立，仍得靠各位同志的團結努力，將先烈奮鬥的精神與之發揚光大。」

台北駐波士頓經濟文化辦事處鄭天授處長致詞：「感謝各位在百忙中蒞臨參加，足見各位同志忠愛國的熱忱，中國國民黨充滿著希望，中華民國將更安定富強。」僑委會黃海龍主任感謝去年雙十節，本分部在前常委李伍倚蓮女士的帶領下，傾力協助慶祝及游行適宜，僑務委員長特頒獎狀以資獎勵銘謝！

會中由黃炳烈委員報告：在波士頓地區，由羅得島的田元教授發起將成立「國父學說研究會」。過去台灣高中以上三民主義是必修課，現在改為選修課，又見於來自大陸的許多學者、留學生對國父首創三民主義學說的研究發生了興趣，因此成立「國父學說研究會」有其必要性。現在只是草創階段，需要各位先進們提供寶貴的意見。

最後由鄭增壽委員報告，每個週末分部將開放提供報刊雜誌、下棋、電影欣賞等。星期一至星期五上午九至十二時，下午一至四時也



開放。因此需要義工幫忙。請各位同志踴躍報名，並多多利用分部提供的服務。

會後聚餐，大家邊食邊聊，過了一個愉快、溫馨的紀念日。

年來從未有過事故，安全可靠，目前波士頓已有三所醫院有樓頂直升機起降場，紐醫將是第四所。

二、三十名華埠民衆到會表示對直升機場遷入華埠的擔憂。紐醫大樓位於華埠中心，正處本市人口密度最高地區，居民們不得不考慮直升機帶來的噪音影響和發生意外事故的可能性。代表華埠居民的余仕昂、胡青等人表示對此方案的反對意見。而華埠社區議會主席之一奧列根神父則認為：紐醫總需要一個機場，現代直升機是很安全的，噪音也低於每日駛過的急救車，在高樓頂上起降應不會有很大的影響。社區在關心自身權益的同時，也應考慮那些急需救護的病人之需求。

華埠新聞

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Pittsfield Housing Authority is seeking a full time Executive Director for our very large authority. See qualifications below:

Minimum Qualifications:

Eight years experience in housing management, community development, public administration, or a closely related field. Must have a working knowledge of fiscal management systems in public or private housing. Supervisor experience of a staff of ten or more is required. Written and verbal skills required. Substantial background in the implementation of management controls and systems. Considerable knowledge of local, state and federal governmental procedures and regulations as they relate to housing development, construction and the management of local housing authority operations. Experience working with people of various socio-economic backgrounds. Must be bondable. Certification as a public housing manager from a HUD approved organization is required. A bachelor's degree may substitute for up to two years of experience.

Salary:

In accordance with Dept. of Housing and Community Development guidelines and Dept. Of Housing and Urban Development comparabilities.

Position closes on April 9, 1997 at 12:00 Noon. Only those interviewed will be notified of the final selection. E.O.E.

Send resume to:

Mr. Nicholas J. Speranzo, Chairman,
c/o Pittsfield Housing Authority,
65 Columbus Avenue,
Pittsfield, MA 01201.

香港民主黨領袖來波募款

【本報波士頓訊】最近訪歐，曾被選出候任的香港特區首長批評為在外「唱衰」的香港民主黨主席李柱銘將於四月二日（周三）到訪波士頓，並於當日晚上在華埠龍鳳酒樓舉行籌款會。

香港民主黨此行訪問北美的成員除主席李柱銘外，還有黨鞭司徒華及代表金融界的立法局議員鄭家富。他們將在三、四月間巡迴美加十餘城市，為民主黨於一九九八年特區首次直選籌募經費，並與各地關心香港前途的海外僑胞交換意見。

負責接待民主黨代表到訪的是波士頓香港華人民主會，該會聯絡人陳志強表示：民主黨此行可謂任重道遠，並將是九七主權移交的最後一次出訪。目前，香港的法制與自由已面臨著嚴峻的形勢。由四百人「推委會」所選出的六十人「臨時立法會」將於七月一日正式取代合法選舉產生的「立法局」，十九位民主黨議員將隨立法局的解散而「下車」。我們知道，民主黨的財政收入，相當一部份來自議員津貼的捐款。所以，議員的離職，除了對香港民主政治造成重大打擊外，亦將對民主黨的財政狀況構成巨大壓力。陳志強強調：九八年的第一屆立法會選舉將是決定民主黨今後生死存亡的一場大戰，籌足糧草，是迎戰是次選舉的必要條件。

波士頓的籌款餐會訂於四月二日晚六時半假華埠龍鳳酒樓舉行，當晚李柱銘及司徒華將發表演講，

(2) CLERK III P.T.

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Human Resources Department
250 New Rutherford Ave.
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分析香港現狀，展望特區未來。歡迎關注香港前途的僑胞踴躍出席。餐券分五十元（貴賓券）及二十五元（普通券）。購票地點：華埠龍鳳酒樓或泰街五號樓下中國工藝店。查詢聯絡 (617) 350-7566, 30 Kneeland Street, #3, Boston MA 02111。

從社會到舞台

記華裔女演員陳偉玲

原文 Samantha Young

翻譯 朱偉儀

專訪



華裔演員陳偉玲 Christina Chan

響笛長鳴，火光冲天，琳在營帳與醫療帳篷之間匍匐前進，她真後悔為什麼會聽信徵兵者的話來當一名美國陸軍護士。每天她都在日記中記錄越戰的恐怖：受傷的男人、尖叫的孤兒、希望的喪失，對她來說，更恐怖的是自己成了敵人。

這是舞台上的一幕，劇中角色作爲一個亞裔美國人，琳面對額外的挑戰：「敵人是亞洲人，但同時我就是亞裔。」幾分鐘後作爲敵人的琳被女演員陳偉玲變成了一位越南女傭人。之後，琳經歷了更多的角色轉換。劇終的時候，琳成爲一名二十歲的信心十足的社會活動家，和久經戰火的亞美老兵。

陳偉玲女士於一九九五年秋在戴弗劇院排演的話劇《一片丹心》(A Piece of My Heart)中扮演琳的角色，劇結尾時社會活動家一角體現的精神來源自陳偉玲的真實生活。事實上，正是她的社會活動將她引上了表演的道路。

陳偉玲一九五九年生於香港，兩歲半時隨父母及哥哥來到美國。與祖母在南波士頓的公寓中住了一段時間之後，他住在同一條街上有自己的住所。她小時候會是個粗野的孩子，自稱是「穿女孩衣服的小子」。

當她逐漸長大考慮未來職業時，她從未想過當演員。但陳偉玲十八歲時曾參與過一部學校劇目的演出，她至今回憶起那段出洋相的經歷還覺得好笑。「我完全忘了台詞，我對面的男演員提醒我，他念了我的台詞，我則又重複他的話。」

從波士頓技術高中畢業之後，陳偉玲進入西蒙學院，希望能成爲一名醫生，就像她愛戴的家庭醫生思蒙大夫一樣。「所有的華人都找他看病，而他的打針技術世界一一流。」但自她遭遇大學生物課之後，便決定當個心理學家而不是醫生。有一段時間，她也曾想當名哲學家。而當她大學畢業獲得心理學士學位時，她卻不知道應該做什麼了。陳偉玲最後找到了一個福利欺詐案調查員的職業，在這個崗位上一幹就是十一年。

當陳偉玲剛成爲調查員時，她確實很喜歡這個職業。她認爲當她在法庭上作證反對違法者時是在保護福利以提供給真正需要的人。但當在這個崗位上幹了幾年之後，她越來越懷疑自己是否在爲社會服務。她是在起訴那些也需要幫助的人，例如那些新職業保險無法爲其孩子提供所需的醫療保險的母親們。雖然目前國家發展趨勢使她感到自己的觀念也有矛盾之處，但陳偉玲堅信政府應該給那些人以幫助。「我相信在福利系統中，這個國家富得足以爲這些不幸者提供基本的服務。」

在此期間，陳偉玲女士變得積極參與社區活動。她特別感興趣本地華裔工廠工人的鬥爭。一家工廠關閉使許多多衣女工失業，沒有家庭醫療保險、養老金或福利。這些工人在與其他社區力量聯合之前並不知道她們有權力享受失業金補助。

在陳偉玲參加加衣廠女工會議的大廳對面，亞裔文化協會(CAWV)正在排練一部早期華人移民鬥爭的話劇《紙天使》。陳偉玲對他們的演出很感興趣，與許多演員成了朋友。不久之後，劇中的一名演員來找我，問我是否對有興趣扮演一個角色。我因原來演那個角色的女演員離開了。因此陳偉玲在離上演只有四個星期之時擔任了這個角色。回顧往事，她說當時「不知深淺」。但與她第一次演戲經歷不同的是，這次她成功了。她對社會活動的熱愛

融匯到了表演之中。「我是一名社區活動家，這就使我投入第一現場大舞台，我覺得可以通過表演來幫助鼓勵自己的社區。」然而，陳偉玲仍保持她日常的職業。

後來三、四年中，陳偉玲女士繼續參與社區水平的演劇活動。她與亞裔文化協會合作，不僅演戲也是該協會長期成員，現任董事會主席。此外也爲「洛士百瑞外展沙士比亞經驗」演出角色，該機構是爲市內學校表演莎士比亞戲劇的少數族裔劇團。而且她也應聘於一九九一年十二月爲「美國故事系列」演出獨角戲，因爲他們當時沒有亞裔女演員。在多方尋覓並找到一名編劇寫劇本之後，她開始演出《解放我們的生活》，一出關於一八八零至一九二零年期間的女性華人移民的戲劇。在一九二零年起中國禁止移民。在演出獨角戲期間，陳偉玲認識到自已需要專業戲劇培訓。她終於辭掉日常職業並到羅德島州府的一家學校上學，她靠演獨角戲來資助自己。

陳偉玲幸運地未被定型爲許多亞裔女演員常被限制的角色。「我以前不曾扮演過無辜、甜美、文靜的角色。」她聲稱那全是「因爲我的頭髮」。一旦她把卷曲的短髮留長了，就更經常地扮演小姑娘等角色。但她繼續演她的獨角戲並希望將來能有更多的自己的作品。

已是一名專業演員的陳偉玲女士現在更注意她「自己的作品」，不僅是由她一人扮演不同角色，而且她也是編劇。她花數月時間探尋、採訪和寫作。《緊閉的門後》是她的新作，題材有關於目前的移民爭議問題，將在劍橋多元文化中心首演，演出日期是四月二十四日至二十七日。(詳情可電 617-577-1400)

關於未來演什麼戲，陳說她有許多選擇，需要「看社區發生了什麼」。她仍打算在波士頓演戲。許多人在那裡她可以有更多機會表演。她明白那些地方可能會有更多劇目，「但我不認爲那些地方是藝術之鄉。我覺得藝術誕生在你的心靈」。

Administrative Assistant

The Office of Admission at Wellesley College is currently seeking an Administrative Assistant. Multi-task position with emphasis on a variety of priorities changing with the Admission cycle, including mail processing, data entry, secretarial, administrative and phone coverage. This is a nine month per year position, September through May, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Saturday occasionally required.

Requirements: High School diploma, some college preferred. One to three years experience as an administrative assistant or secretary with receptionist, data entry and computer skills. Excellent organizational and problem-solving skills. Knowledge of Word and computer systems preferred. Outstanding interpersonal and communication skills.

Communications Coordinator

The Campus Police department at Wellesley College is currently seeking a Communications Coordinator. Maintain radio communication with Campus Police mobile units, bike patrols and foot patrols. Update officers on the status of fire and security systems and receive from them security data on campus buildings and activities. Monitor fire alarm system and notify the Fire Department and Campus Police of any alarms. Receive and notify shops of building emergencies. Receive and log campus wide police activity. Assign and direct escort service. Schedule is as follows: Saturday and Sunday: 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., Monday: 4:00 p.m. - 12:00 a.m., Thursday and Friday: 12:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Requirements: High School diploma. Experience with computer operations or ability to learn computer operations. Ability to interact well with police department members, and all departments of the college.

If interested, send cover letter and resume indicating specific position to: Carolyn Slaboden, Employment Specialist, SP 21, Wellesley College, Wellesley, MA 02181 by April 4, 1997.

Wellesley College especially welcomes applications from ethnic minorities.



Wellesley College

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在昆士學校社區委員會參加入籍班的學員們。

障礙重重入籍不易

成為美國公民的過程雖然並不

去移民局面談是成為美國公民必不可少的一環，連嬰兒或傷殘病人也需當面由移民官面視，但小孩子無需回答問題。被面試者必須以英語對答，因此英語聽說能力會影響面試效果。如果面試者已年滿五十五歲並獲綠卡二十年，則可以母語（如中文）進行筆試，並在面試時有翻譯陪同。

在面試合格之後，一名外國移民便可加入美國籍，但真正成為美國公民的日期要從其在星條旗下舉手宣誓之日算起。宣誓儀式由全州統一安排，移民局會通知每名新公民應在何時何地參加入籍宣誓，麻州的公民宣誓儀式通常在波士頓的芬紐斯舉行，近年來因新公民入籍宣誓人數劇增，除加多了宣誓場所外，還在其他市鎮設置了新的宣誓場所。宣誓當天新公民需交回「綠卡」而得到象徵美國公民身份的「公民紙」。如要離開美國需辦美國護照，則可憑公民紙到一些主要郵局或有關辦公室辦理。

很繁瑣，但對一些新移民來說卻仍很困難，主要是語言的障礙，一些人連簡單英文對話都難以應付，如何能回答移民官的提問？一些老年人長久未入籍也是因此原因。然而近期的移民福利改革，正使這些老年移民首當其衝受到影響，許多人如不成為美國公民，將不再有資格享用現在賴以生存的社會保險金、醫療補助等社會福利，這些移民在準備申請入籍時，又面臨著英文過不了關的巨大障礙。

二月二十七日數百名移民在麻州政府參加「移民游說日」時，華裔老人謝初發發言說：自己來自中國大陸，文革時遭到迫害，現在全家都在美國，他與妻子因老弱傷殘都無法工作，靠福利補助金生活。他的妻子作為中國農村婦女從小未曾上學讀書，連中文字都不識如何能學會英文，因此通過入籍筆試面試幾乎沒有希望。象他妻子這樣沒有文化的人在中國及其他亞洲國家並不少見，這些人來到美國後也曾辛苦做工交稅，為這個國家貢獻，卻只因語言問題難以成為美國公民。「移民游說日」的目的旨在說服麻州政府對這些需要社會幫助的移民給予一定福利援助。

在華埠昆士學校社區委員會的入籍學習班上，學員有年齡從二十幾歲的青年到年近七旬的老婆婆。幾位上年紀的學員更感到入籍的迫切，但她們表示福利補助並非入籍的唯一動力，這些來自中國廣東的新移民認為美國的民主自由也是她們所向往的，而且有了美國護照去

昆市公民入籍班

昆市中華文化促進會自去年六月開始連續開辦多期公民入籍班。目前，該協會與由美國政府移民局批准的CASAS入籍考試機構合作，每次課程完畢，由CASAS派考官到昆市主持公民入籍筆試。目前由三月十八日開始，逢星期二及星期四晚七時半有入籍班，星期一早上九時有面試英語會話班。四月十七日（星期四）晚八時正考筆試。有意讀入籍班或參加筆試者，可在每日上午電昆市文化交流中心：328-5249或下午二時後電471-7192，找謝先生查詢。

國外更方便。但幾位年過了六十的阿婆都表示，這把年紀再為了入籍學英文實在很難，邊學邊忘，因她們取得綠卡都不足十五年，不得不參加英語考試。

昆士校委會的這個入籍班是由政府資助的免費課程，對學員進行入籍筆試、口試、填表等指導。許多其他社區機構也提供類似的服務。公民入籍與社會福利，原本是兩項不同的領域，現在卻有越來越緊密的關聯。

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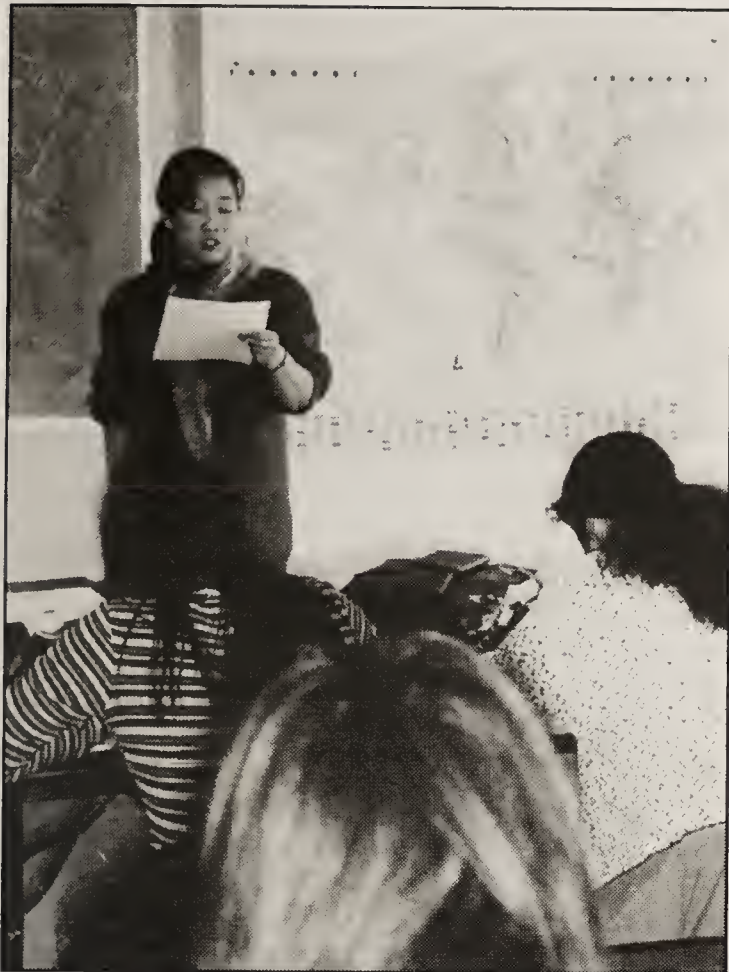
封面故事

朱偉儀

移民需要入籍服務

在昆士中華文化交流中心，負責人謝庇得先生表示：「自本會去年開辦了入籍班和公民筆試，第一批已有三十多名學員通過筆試，昆士市長親自前來發公民筆試合格證書。入籍課程與筆試確是一項新移民們需要的服務。但由於最近為本中心提供筆試服務的入籍協助服務局(NIC)被移民局取消，公民筆試提供資格，使許多人對是否仍能來本中心參加入籍學習班和考筆試有所疑問。」謝庇得說：「自己從香港來美已十多年，原先並不很在意要成為美國公民，也就是近一兩年才感到有種不得不入美國籍的壓力，其中有美國反移民浪潮的因素，也有香港回歸中國等的影響。去年自己從麻州教育廳退休，閒暇時間多了，業余仍想辦文化教育，除了周末的中文學校、課後的少兒班外，平時白天也想為新移民成人辦些活動，入籍班和英文班便都是應大家需要所生，中華文化交流中心也獲得北昆士基督教堂提供場地等多方面支持。謝庇得及有關人員花費許多心血編寫中英文的入籍班教材。

為了成為美國公民，需要學英文和入籍知識。



對新移民們了解美國很有幫助，他感到入籍學習不能只就事論事，對美國有所了解，才經得起考驗，他自己也是去年剛在本中心參加並通過公民筆試的。最近有位在本中心考過筆試的七十多歲的施先生已經移民局面試合格，成為美國公民。他表示宣誓之後立即申請一本美國護照環遊世界一了心願。

謝庇得認為大多數入籍考試中心都是奉公守法、以服務為上的，他所在的這個入籍考試中心雖然開辦時間不長，但上課、收費、考試一切正規照章。但社會上也有少數不法謀利，敗壞了入籍筆試提供者的名譽，當然作為總提供者的入籍協助服務局也有監管不嚴的責任，因此遭取消資格。目前，謝庇得及中華文化交流中心正在向其他公民筆試提供者提出申請，目前該中心與東波士頓一家西語裔筆試中心合作，仍可在另一筆試提供者CASA監管下主辦公民筆試。因此，謝庇得仍歡迎願成為美國公民的新移民前來北昆士的這個中心參加入籍學習。

投機謀利必遭懲罰

華美福利會主任李秋明表示：在過去數年中，華美福利會的入籍及其他移民服務都是按照法規辦理，美國是個法制國家，涉及移民入籍等事務更是與法律緊密相關的大事，不可投機取巧。華美福利會有多年的服務移民社區的經驗，也有合格的老練人士負責專項業務，服務品質有目共睹。然而，近幾年因為想入籍的新移民多了，有些人認為入籍服務也是個可賺錢的機會，因此申請提供辦公民筆試和入籍班的機構越來越多，有些甚至以商業為目的，趁機敲竹杠。作為公民筆試提供者的NIC沒有嚴格審核這些機構，有否能力與資格代理這項任務，濫發許可且管理不善，因極少數機構的違法行為而牽連了大局，所謂「一類老鼠屎毀掉一鍋湯」。但壞事亦可變為好事，移民局會對執行公民筆試單位進行更嚴格的資格審查，合格的機構則能為希望入籍的移民們提供更好的服務。

今年初，在NIC被移民局取消資格的時候，位於波士頓華埠夏里臣街六十五號的一家入籍筆試中心亦被查封起訴，這家「公民移民服務」機構便是毀了NIC大鍋湯的「老鼠屎」之一。麻州檢察院已以違反「麻州消費者保護法」的罪名對該公司起訴，有證據證明，該中心非法向參加公民筆試和入籍學習班的客戶收取高價，並為使付錢者通過考試而採取通融答案等違法作弊手段，是對移民法規的欺騙。該中心主管是三十多歲的美國人Robert Pore，他與其他華裔合夥人一起開辦此業，專門針對許多華人新移民渴望入籍的心態以謀取暴利。盡管該公司人員一再解釋他們的行為，但許多消費者的揭發抱怨已構成確鑿證據，州檢察院已凍結Pore本人與公司財產，並勒令其向被欺詐的客戶退賠錢款。該公司於去年中期開業，只不過半年多時間，但造成的影響已很惡劣，並導致其筆試提供者NIC也遭取消資格。移民局也停發了部分在該中心考試者的成績通知。

這個事件不僅對假借社會服務名義謀取暴利的非法經商者是個警告，對一些因希望儘快成為美國公民而不惜錢財反而受了騙的新移民也是個教訓。近年來，美國的亞裔人口劇增，許多人是帶著「美國夢想」來這個自由世界的，有人甚至為達到來美目的而不擇手段，這使走私人口的「人蛇」有了謀利之機。而一些已經在美國的合法移民，面臨福利待遇會被取消而被迫不及待想成為美國公民，也願為達此目的付出代價，這又給一些利慾熏心者有機可乘。新移民們應該認識到：在美國這個法制國家中，金錢不見得萬能，必須遵法辦事，而投機取巧之舉卻會造成後患。對移民入籍這種以法為依據的大事，是不能以兼混或欺騙過關的，不然日後查出反而不利。唯一可行的道路是按部就班準備，或通過正當渠道向有關部門反映移民們的呼聲。

如何成為美國公民

一名合法移民，應通過怎樣的步驟變成美國公民呢？在華美福利會長期負責公民入籍服務的曾嘉兒女士介紹說：外國移民來到美國後凡獲得永久居民身份(綠卡)五年以上者，便可以申請加入美國籍，但入籍憑自願並非每人一定得入籍。事實上，許多移民在具有美國綠卡之後，出境後仍很便利，在美國和原祖國還能享有一些優惠，因此成為永久居民許多年也並不想入籍，到，反而影響面試者。

也有些華人仍有很強的民族意識，雖然可以在外國的土地上生活工作，卻仍要做中國人。但近年來局勢的變化，使許多新移民開始感到了加入美國籍的必要。國家政治的因素，如中國八九年的民運與六四事件，使不少大陸來的華人想獲綠卡而成為美國公民；香港今年七月將回歸中國大陸，也使不少現持英國護照的香港移民想把護照換成美國的。然而，真正促使大批合法移民急於加入美國籍的原因，還是美國本國移民政策的改變，尤其是福利改革砍掉了許多原來移民們可以合法享用的社會福利，除非成為美國公民，不然許多已有永久居留權的合法移民就會失去生活補助、老人金、醫療福利、低收入住房等目前賴以生存的經濟來源。所以近兩年來自世界各地的移民入籍人數大大增加。

曾女士說：申請入籍的過程是先填寫N-400入籍申請表並與照片、指模等資料一同交至移民局，然後便等待移民局的面試通知，目前一般要等候一年左右。在等後面談期間，申請人可以考公民筆試。公民入籍筆試是美國移民局在一九九二年新增設的一個項目，旨在節省面試時間。申請人並不一定非要參加筆試，有自信心者可以直接面試，但需當面回答移民官有關美國政治歷史常識的問題，而考過筆試者因已在試卷上回答了這部分題目，面試時的内容就簡單得多，只需回答有關個人的提問即可，減少時間也減輕緊張感。因此目前大多數申請入籍者都是先通過了筆試的。

筆試需在美國移民局批准的公民筆試提供機構下屬的任一考試中心進行，一般筆試需答二十個題目，答對十二個以上問題便可通過，還需聽寫兩個簡單英文句子。一般筆試的報名費通常是三十元左右。如果報名者感到自己對美國政治行政歷史常識過於缺乏，則可先自學有關材料或上入籍學習班。考過筆試後兩星期可獲得結果通知，如果筆試合格，應考者要自己保管好筆試合格通知書原件，在去移民局面試時出示給移民官，便可免於當面再做這部分內容的口試。但不要把此筆試合格證書寄給移民局，因該局來往公文繁多，常常誤置而查找不到，反而影響面試者。



填表、按指模、拍照是申請入籍不可少的程序。華美福利會正為移民們提供這些服務。



華人前進會亦舉辦周末入籍學習班，學員們模擬入籍宣誓。

新英格蘭中文學校協會成立

新英格蘭中文學校協會成立之日，
逢三八婦女節，圖為新到任的臺北駐波士頓辦事處女副處長劉嫻嫻(後排中)與各校女代表們合影。

【本報訊】一九九七年三月八日，「新英格蘭中文學校協會成立大會」在波士頓華僑文教中心舉行，參加大會的有來自新英格蘭地區五個州的二十所中文學校的代表，台北經濟文化辦事處鄭天授處長、剛到任的劉嫻嫻副處長、僑教中心黃海龍主任參加了會議。

參加新英格蘭中文學校協會的首批二十個學校有：麻州的昆士中文學校、牛頓中文學校、世紀中文學校、美國退伍軍人協會中文學校、勒星頓中文學校、紐頓(粵語)中文學校、華心中文學校、春田華人團契附設中文學校、安城中文學校、波士頓郊區華人聖經教會中文學校、中華語文學校、全是福中文學校、中部中文學校、中華廣教學校、羅威爾華人聖經中文學校、羅德島州的京士頓中文學校、華人基督教會中文學校、新罕布什爾州的塞山中文學校、緬因州的波特蘭中文學校，以及佛蒙特中文學校。協會亦歡迎設在新英格蘭地區的其他中文學校參加。

大會主持人金兆珉指出：雖然美國已有若干全國或地區性中文學校協會，但由於這些協會所跨地域太廣，集中開會或舉辦活動並不方便，而本地區的中文學校間卻有更多的關係，因此產生了在新英格蘭地區成立中校協會的想法，並得到僑教中心及黃海龍主任的支持。在這次會議討論協會章程過程中，與會的各校校長與代表們強調協會的非牟利非政治宗旨，並提倡海外中文學校教學的重點不僅在於教華裔後代學習中文，也要向主流社會推廣中華文化，協會還將以獎學金的形式鼓勵海外華裔子弟堅持學習中文。僑教中心並當場向與會學校發放了教材、校旗及資助經費。

成立大會上選出了新英格蘭中文學校協會首屆理事共九位：會長金兆珉(勒星頓)、副會長陳瑞虹(華心)、秘書湯傳武(華人聖經教會)、聯絡王瑞云(牛頓)、財務譚小德(紐頓)、理事貝克寧(波特蘭)、牟冰(世紀)、賈儀和(中華語文)、鍾美珍(廣教)。



昆士醫院為兒童及家長舉辦 安全星期六

昆士醫院、波士頓雙親報、昆士警察局及昆士消防局將聯合舉辦「安全星期六」活動。日期：一九九七年四月五日(星期六)。時間：上午九時至下午一時。地點：昆士醫院(114 Whitwell Street, Quincy, MA 02169)。

該活動是特別為四至十四歲少年兒童安排，進行家居安全措施教育，如幼兒照管、急救課程、家居防火、腳踏車安全手則、防疫注射資料、吸煙危害健康教育。孩子們還可學習印手指紋、實習報警「九一一」等各有興趣活動。

特邀請中華文化促進協會之昆市中文學校舞團蒞臨表演中國民族舞蹈。家住昆士的小學五年級華裔女生樓宇小朋友的個人美術展也將自該日起在昆士醫院會議室展出兩周。

當日昆士醫院提供免費小巴，由昆士中心地鐵站接送，早九時至中午，每半小時一班車。詳情請電：昆士醫院亞裔事務主任黎小姐(617) 376-5490。



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